

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

Status of Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-33 and 36-42 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in the communication filed by Applicants on 08 January 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

- In claim 38, insert –further-- after “claim 4”.
- In claim 39, insert –further-- after “claim 4”.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 22 October 2004 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the entire IDS has been considered by the examiner, including documents 12, 13, 17 and 18. The initialed and signed IDS is submitted herewith.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan W. Schlientz whose telephone number is 571-272-9924. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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